

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
16 DIVINITY AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

May 7, 1957

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Medical Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

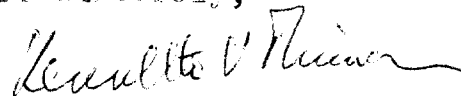
Dear Lederberg:

This is in belated reply to your letter of April 7 which was, of course, disappointing. I note that you suggest that we should still keep you in mind for a future occasion. On the other hand, I hear from Jim Watson that you have definitely decided against coming. These two statements are not precisely in agreement and I feel that, before we proceed to the consideration of other candidates, we must be quite sure that you are definitely declining.

In this connection I still feel it a great pity that you could not make a visit here before coming to a decision. In previous correspondence I had formed an impression that you would certainly come down here before finally deciding and I find that others around here, especially Paul Doty, had formed the same opinion. I realize that your affairs are very complex and that you have a major undertaking to get going in the new department of medical genetics. I believe, too, you spoke of going to Australia this summer. I should like to suggest, however, that before you definitely write off Harvard in your mind you should plan to pay a visit in the fall. Our colloquium is normally held on a Friday and any Friday during October and November could be allotted to you now; if this is not convenient, we could perfectly well schedule a seminar talk at any other time. We will gladly pay your fare, and Esther's too, if you wish it. I think all of us would like to feel that the matter had been given a really thorough exploration. So many people in several departments here feel an interest in the possibility of your coming that I cannot think you should come to a final decision as yet.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Kenneth V. Thimann
Professor of Biology

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